

E.S. WHEELER & COMPANY BUILDING  
26-28 Crown Street  
New Haven  
New Haven County  
Connecticut

HABS No. CT-423

HABS  
CONN,  
S-NEWHA,  
50-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

E. S. WHEELER & COMPANY BUILDING

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Location: 26-28 Crown Street, New Haven,  
New Haven County, Connecticut

USGS New Haven, Connecticut Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
18.673742.4574320

Significance: The Wheeler Building is significant as one of the few late 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings still extant in this former manufacturing and commercial sector of downtown.

Description: The main structure on the south side of Crown Street is a c. 1875 three-story brick building with a shallow pitched roof. The facade is three bays wide and decorated with distinctive brick work. The storefront at street level is a 1970's remodelling. Attached to the main block are are two additions.

A c.1884 warehouse type brick building was added to the south elevation (rear) of the main structure. It runs perpendicularly behind the main structure and the building at 30-36 Crown Street. This structure is four stories tall. It is five bays wide on the east elevation and has multiple window openings with stone lintels and sills. The south elevation is broken by a large industrial style attached chimney and has two warehouse style doors on each of the upper levels and a garage door opening at ground level.

Attached to the rear of the c.1884 addition are two rectangular one-story masonry structures with flat roofs attached by a party wall, running on a north-to-south line. The original brick work is visible on the west elevation of the western structure and on the south elevation of the eastern structure. The brick work is similar to the brick work on the Field Building at 40-44 Crown Street with every fifth stringcourse laid in a stretcher-header-stretcher pattern and the fenestration displaying segmental headers. At present the windows are bricked-in and the east elevation of both structures has been re-worked in cinder block.

History: E. S. Wheeler & Company, iron and steel manufac-

turers and dealers with offices in New York, Liverpool, Baltimore, and Chicago, acquired 26-28 Crown Street in two transactions in 1874. (deeds: v.293, p.68; v.287, p.134) A building existed on Crown Street but the rear portion of the property was vacant. A right-of-way from State Street to the rear lot was granted with the property. It is unclear if E. S. Wheeler & Company demolished that structure and rebuilt the present one before relocating here in 1875. In 1884, they received a \$20,000 mortgage and it is assumed that the large rear addition visible on an 1888 map was built at this time. (deed: v.371, p.51)

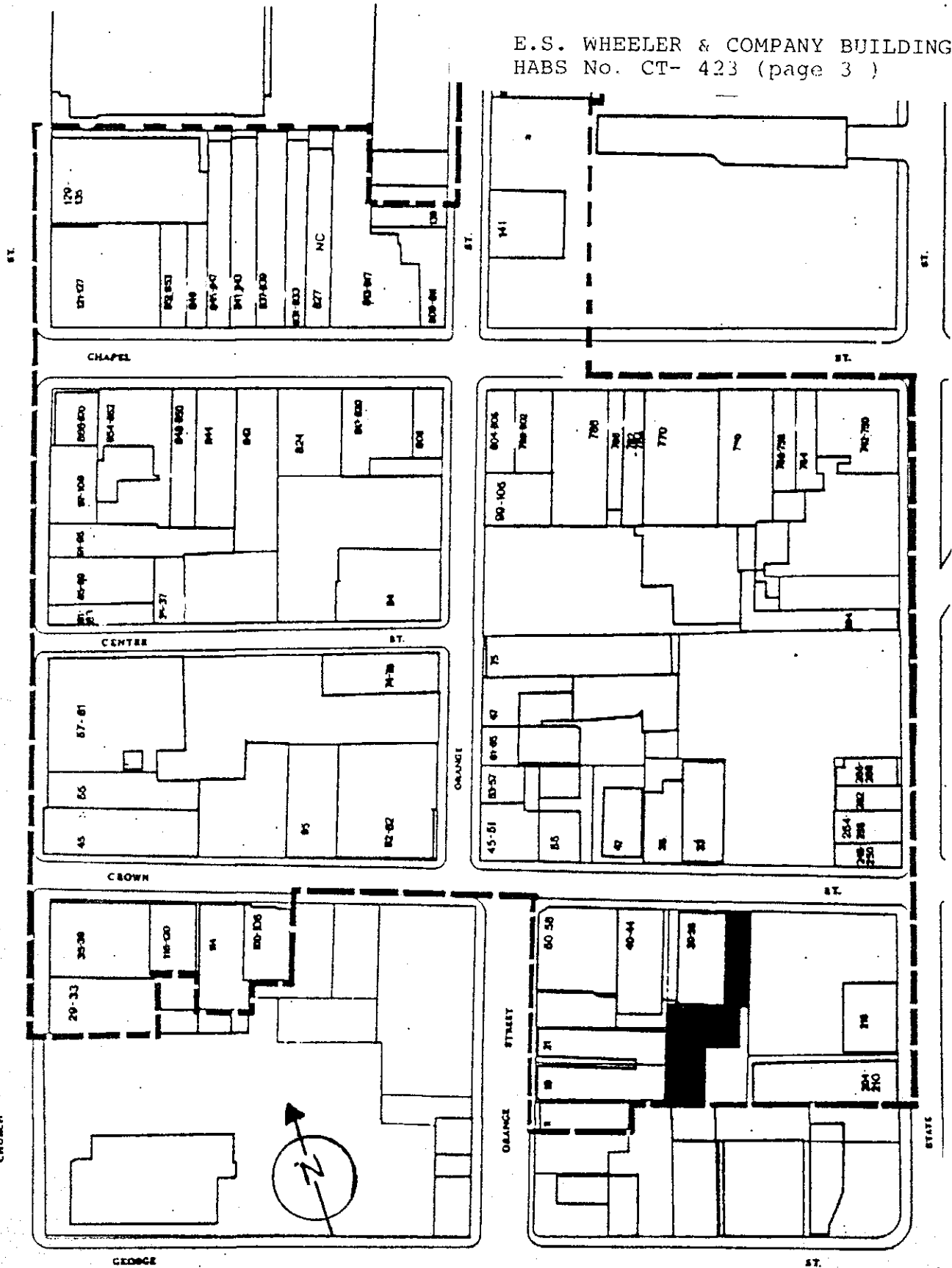
The next owner of the building in 1888 is B. H. Douglass & Sons, successors to the prosperous New Haven confectionery firm of Dawson & Douglass. (deed: v.399, p.51) The two small rear additions are not present on an 1888 map.

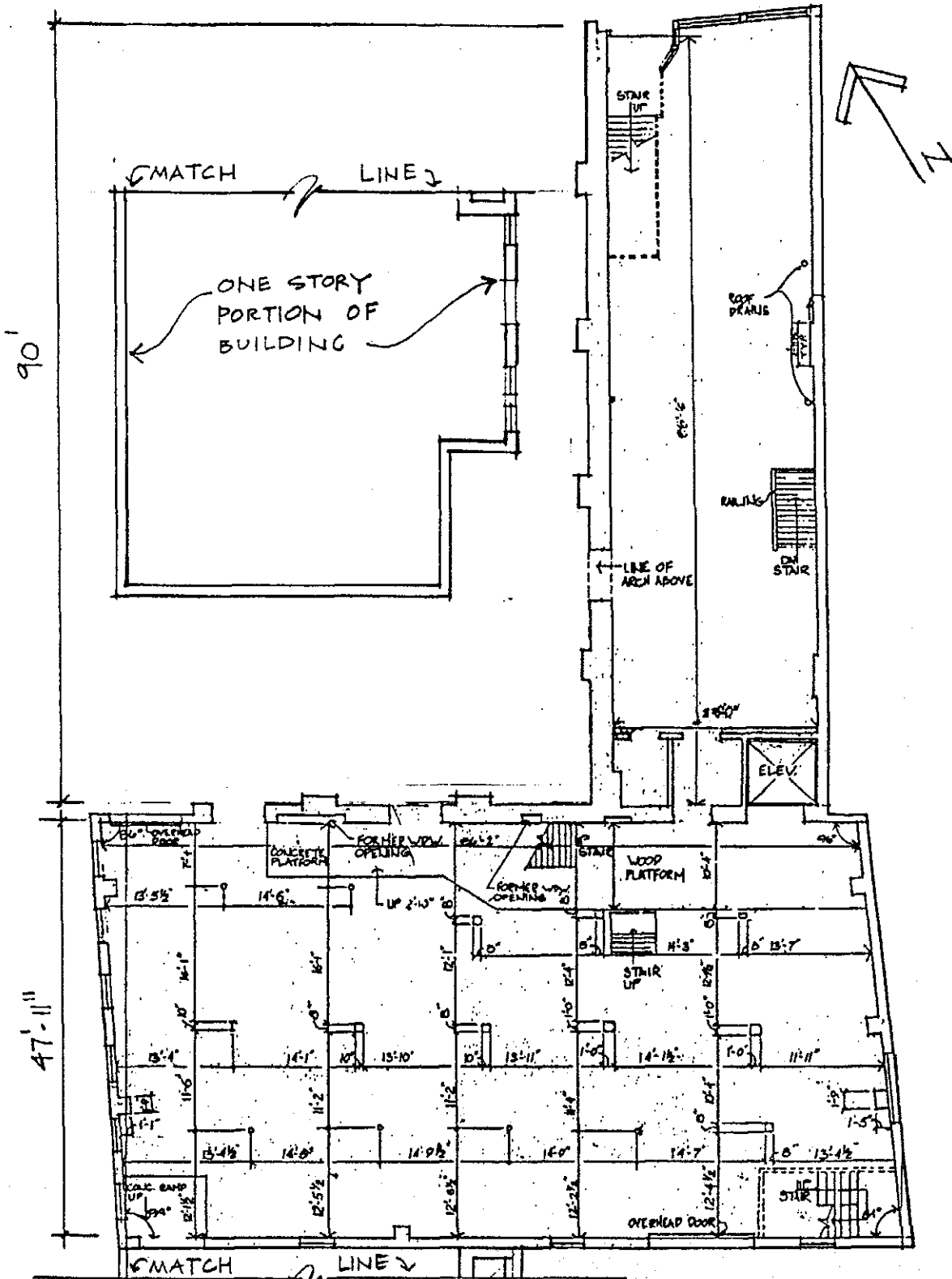
Ernest E. Ball, a Fair Haven oyster dealer, acquired the property at public auction in 1901. (deed: v.558, p. 126) At the time he agreed to keep the present open space at the end of the right-of-way "open and unobstructed by any buildings or erections of any kind whatsoever," in perpetuity, to provide light and air to the F. D. Grave Building. Building permit #4790 show the prolific New Haven architectural firm of Brown & Von Beren doing "brick alterations" at 26-28 Crown Street for \$5,000, but it is unclear where the alterations are occurring. E. E. Ball made further alterations in 1924 for \$600 according to building permit #23512.

Sources: New Haven Historic Resources Inventory  
New Haven City Building Department permits  
New Haven City Directories  
New Haven Land Records deeds  
1888 and 1911 maps

Historian: Kathleen A. Maher  
New Haven Preservation Trust  
May 20, 1990

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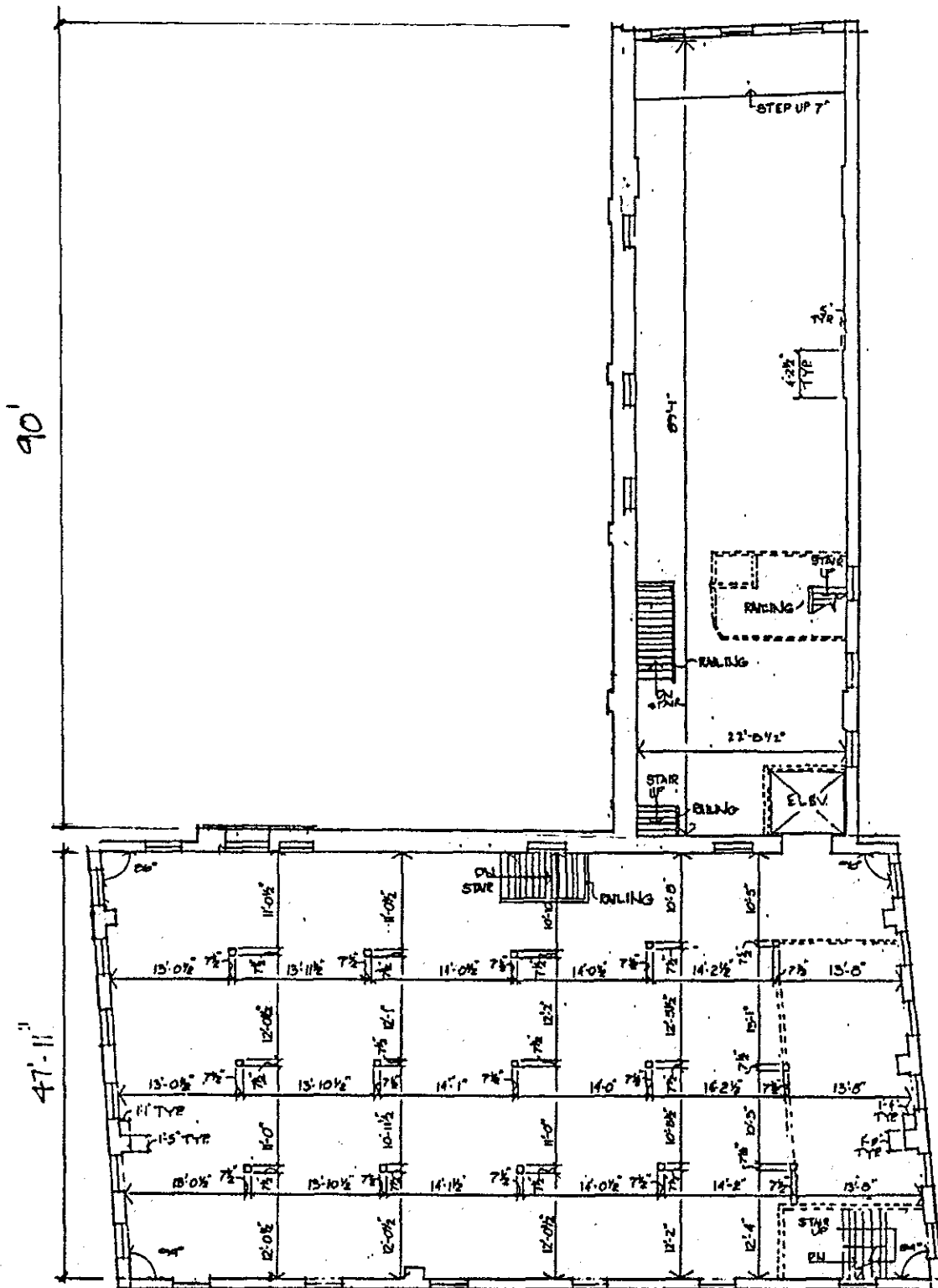




FIRST FLOOR PLAN

26-28 CROWN STREET NEW HAVEN CT

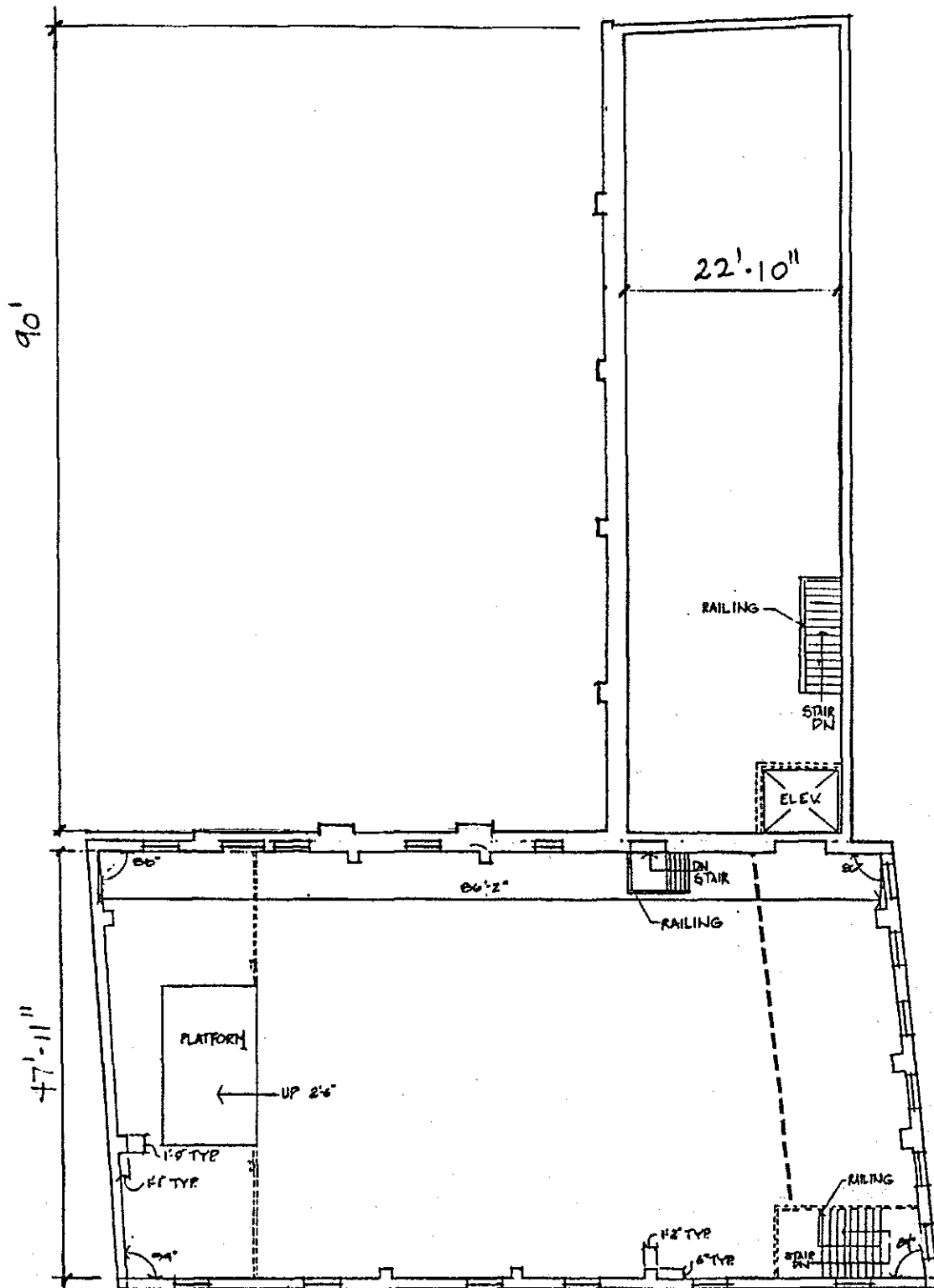
26-28 CROWN STREET NEW HAVEN CT



### THIRD FLOOR PLAN

26-28 CROWN STREET NEW HAVEN CT

E.S.WHEELER & COMPANY BUILDING  
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FOURTH FLOOR PLAN

20-36 CROWN STREET NEW HAVEN CT

